Power Theft in the Capital

2876. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a)whether the Union Power Minister has recently blamed the organised power theft network in the capital for acute power shortages;

(b)whether Goveriunent have issued any directives/guidelines to the State Govenunent of Delhi to check power thefts;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Central Government have asked State Government of Delhi to privatise DVB in view of power theft and losses; and

(e) if so, what is the reaction thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) The Chief Ministers'/Power Ministers' Conference held on 26-2-2000 took note of the impending difficult situation facing the power supply industry in the country, including the capital, due to continuing decline in commercial viability of the sector as a whole. Theft and pilferage of power at the macro level is also one of the primary factor responsible for the unsustainable financial situation.

(b) to (e) The Power Ministers' Conference resolved that with the intention of achieving commercial viability and providing power at reasonable rates to all, reform must be undertaken with detennination, vigour and a sense of urgency. The key elements of the reform strategy are Energy Audit at all levels, time-bound programme of 100% metering of all consumers by December, 2001, reduction and finally, elimination of power theft within a specified time frame and strengthening/upgradation of sub-transmission and distribution system by taking sub-station as a unit on a priority basis.

Minutes of the conference alongwith a copy of Resolution have been sent to all State Governments/U.T. Administrations including Delhi Government for appropriate action.